

# DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Vol. II

Whole Number 45

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## DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

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Box 192 Grand Central Annex  
New York City

1931 A D = the year 1 F S

We use the Fortean 13-month calendar

Membership available to all

Annual dues \$2.00

Dues in Sterling countries 8/—

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## FOLLOW UP

If one were Browning, or whoever it was—but, praises be, one is not—one would be inclined to say, "All's well with the world!"

Here follows the evidence, in an issue of DOUBT devoted almost entirely to catching up on leads we have started in the past, following through on recurrences of such data as Fort put into THE BOOKS.

LIGHTNING continued to seek out golfers. Two were struck on the course at Hartford Manor, Bushey, 5-21-50. They were not killed. One was knocked flat, and "debugged" on the course at West Kilbride, 11-19-51. His trousers and one shoe were ripped off. He suffered burns, but lived. One was killed 7-17-53, on Aberlady's Kilspindie course, and two companions were "paralysed".

In the U.S.A., one was killed on a miniature golf course, at Hines Point, a public park on the Potomac near the Jefferson Memorial, 7-29-51. All old style dates. The dead was "a public relations man for

the Office of Price Administration". His companion was seriously hurt by the same bolt.

LIGHTNING continued to set off charges of explosives: one at the dam project of the city of Denver, in South Boulder Creek Canyon. Eight men killed and ten injured, 8-24-51, when the bolt discharged "10 or 12 cases of dynamite". And again — (no year) — "in the bottom of the Panama Canal", injuring four men on a barge who had just placed the dynamite and were moving to safety.

Not entirely malicious, a bolt struck the earth near a linotype operator of Yeadon, Yorks. He had suffered paralysis in two fingers for 22 years. Felt a heavy shock in his arm—and when he recovered—the fingers were "cured".

Also, continued to strike in the same place. A farmer of Woodsboro, Md., was struck in his barn in 1947, and again in July, 1950. He survived the second bolt as well. Cf. Elsander, Pollard, Russell, Staats, and others.

BEES and their cousins continued to sting fatally, and to cut other didos. A wasp stung Mrs. Elizabeth Burt, Dorchester, and she died in 15 minutes, 9-13-51. Six years previously a wasp sting had rendered her unconscious "for some hours".

Another wasp stung Everett Agee, 55, of Cambria, Va. He fainted, and never recovered. He had a heart history. 8-1-51.

The Russ asserted in print, in the annual Voks Bulletin, of the Soviet Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, that they had trained bees to get their honey from the blossoms the humans wished to pollinate, ignoring all others. "James R. Hamilton, bee expert for the United States Department of Agriculture," did not believe it. N. Y. Times, 1-15-52.

In Southport, Lancs, Mrs. Blanche Champion was stung—by bee or wasp—three times at intervals of many months. The second sting, on the throat, made her faint. The third, on the neck, killed her, 5-21-52.

Robert Just, 80, a beekeeper, takes some bees to bed with him "so that their stings will alleviate his rheumatism". N. N. Mail, 10-6-52.

NANA reported from Paris, November 7, that fatalities from wasp stings so far exceeded "the normal probabilities" that statistics were being assembled "for discussion by medical men at a forthcoming conference". The incidents occurred "from the British Isles to the Aegean Sea"—involving "an elderly woman in England . . . three adults and a baby in France . . . a soldier in Switzerland . . . a 7-year old boy in Crete."

A bee stung a lorry driver in the eye, and he crashed his load of chemicals, which burned him. His burns healed after hospital treatment but he had been given a transfusion of jaundiced blood plasma which killed him. 12-12-52. In this connection, we have many other rotten plasma data, but no space for them in this issue.

In Sturgis, Mich., William Woods and his wife had dodged a swarm of bees around their kitchen door for eight years. He took up a floor board and found 200 pounds of honey—so he killed all the bees—and none of them stung him.

Mrs. E. C. Piper, Somerville, Tenn., succumbed after a swarm of bees stung her. They were "her" bees, says A.P., but that raises a neat question:



Who's to say who "owns" a bee? Is there a Dred Scott decision in the matter? 4-8- (no year).

"Some 25,000 wild bees" captured the liner Kenya, berthed at Mombasa. They arrived at the ship's swimming pool, on deck, stung men, women and children upon "exposed parts", driving everybody inside. The crew got out the fire hose and recaptured the vessel in about half an hour. 5-3-53.

In Bristol, England, plural swarms of bees disrupted traffic in the center of town, 6-27-53. "... later all the swarms had been hived or collected for hiving. In other parts of the city, swarms quietly settled on lamp posts, bridges and shops and attracted crowds of observers."

A bee-keeper's wife, who had been stung before without ill effect, was stung upon the arm, 6-22-53, and succumbed. Mrs. Kathleen Graham, of Bishopthorpe, near York, *ae* 51.

July 5, which was about two weeks later, York City Police were summoned three times in one day "to deal with swarms of bees".

July 8, an inquest upon Mrs. Joan Staveacre, bee-keeper (of no more definite address than England), *ae* 41, attributed her death to stings. She "did not believe there was any harm in their stings".

A swarm took over a Newcastle hardware store, 7-22-53. Cops collared them in 3 hours. Only a newspaper reporter was stung. *Cr.* Russell, Goeller, Mitchell, Gee, Bump.

SLEEPWALKERS continued to climb and to dive. A boy *ae* 12, dived out of a third floor window in Kentish Town, London, and died of it. He was a swimmer, and was seen with his hands up in diving position—too late to stop him. 4-23-51. *Cr.* Elsander.

In Enid, Okla., a nameless housewife, *ae* 27, was discovered 20 feet up in a tree, nude. The husband said she frequently walks at midnight when the moon is full. 6-29-53. *Cr.* Russell.

HICCUPS continued, not to mention the Pope. A Stockholm drug house announced that it was sending by air to Recife, Brazil, 2,000 doses of its new hiccup remedy because it read, in *O Globo*, a Rio paper, that 55 infants had died of hiccups in the Recife hospital. State health officials denied the epidemic, stating that only 8 infants had died in Recife, and one *infers*—altho the report is not clear—that the 8 deaths were from all causes. 1-22-53.

Jack O'Leary of L.A., began hiccuping after an appendectomy in A.D. 1948, the year 18 F.S. He has been at it day and night ever since, except upon two occasions when he visited Phoenix, Ariz. Just arriving in Phoenix seems to stop them. "Doctors cannot explain why they stopped." Jack is down to 77 lbs. 10-31-53 old style.

HITLER REMAINED ALIVE, legally as well as probably, unless the real Adolph died some years before World Fraud II, as was rumored many times. His sister Paula changed her name to Wolff, but was reported, 10-15-52, about to change it back to Hider. She lives in Bavaria and would like to collect her brother's personal property, but so far nobody has been willing to sign a death certificate.

The Government of Austria is also interested in the legacy, hoping to collect a Vermeer painting worth at least \$240,000, but Berlin officials will not admit the will to probate until the testator's death is proved. *Liverpool Echo*, 1-26-53. Five days earlier, the same paper printed an A.P. despatch giv-

ing the value of the painting as equal to \$705,000. But Nazi Party members keep writing to the authorities, offering to tell where Hitler is living, in return for amnesty. *Cr.* Russell, Elsander.

NYLONS continued to disintegrate, in Stockholm, New York City, London, through the years 22 and 23 F.S. *Cr.* Bristol, Millar, Russell and others.

TOMBSTONES continued to topple, Phillipsburg, N.J., Pearl River, N.Y., Yonkers, Union, N.J., but the datum of the finding of a Rolls-Royce motor hearse deserted in an East Dulwich park, remained unique. It came about the first of the year 20 F.S., and it still stood there 6 months later. No law was being violated, so nothing was done about it. Is it still there?

FAWCETT remained lost. Bones found in 21 F.S. did not convince his son that they were his father's remains, and one Raymond Maufrais has now been missing on the Upper Amazon since 20 F.S. His father went looking for him 9-30-53 old style. *Cr.* Elsander, Mitchell.

HOMING PIGEONS continued to get lost. Over 900 started from Nantes, France, and were expected by their owners to arrive in Yorkshire. Only 17 made it. 7-17-51. Called, "the worst disaster of the century in losses of birds".

*St. Mungo*, writing in the *Glasgow Evening Citizen*, 12-20-51, says that fanciers attribute pigeon "flightiness" and "disappearance" to phases of the moon. No details as to which phases cause what.

In Morristown, N.J., dead pigeons were carted away by the barrowful, 3-11 and 3-12-53. Some were seen to collapse in flight. Attributed to oats saturated with strychnine. Nobody pointed the finger, but the *N.Y. Times* recorded that a feed remailer of Morristown has been forced to pay tribute of "more than half a ton of grain a week," to the pigeons, to keep them from entering the place and opening the bags for themselves.

NANA, under a Manchester date line, reported, 10-22-53, that "scientists . . . still have not found a clue about (the homing instinct) . . . precise, scientific data is extremely small, considering that the problem has been a human talking point since it was mentioned in the Book of Job. *Cr.* Russell, Ritchie, Mitchell.

SUBSIDENCES continued to drop holes out of or into Mother Earth, without quake phenomena attending. On the "City-Mt. Oliver border" of Pittsburgh, 35 ft. in circumference, 1-28-52. Said to be disused coal mines underneath.

In Villard Glen, near Sonloup, above Montreaux, Switzerland, soil subsides "slowly"—crater 45 ft. in diameter, 60 ft. deep, 1-5-53. Guess is "unknown cave" beneath.

On a farm near Clinton, Ind., owned by Charles Watts. No details of size, but the crater opened suddenly in the middle of a field. Watts dropped into it while waving to friends from the seat of his tractor. 5-2-53.

Eight scientists of the Canadian Atomic Mission were going to investigate a crater in Northern Labrador, 175 yards across, with an "apple-green lake in the center". 5-2-54. *Cr.* Elsander, Steinberg.

SHIPMASTERS ashore and CREWS afloat continued to disappear. The master of a tug at Seaforth, near Liverpool, one George Callon, said goodbye to his wife and started out to board his vessel "only

a few hundred yards away". That is all. "No one saw him enter the dock gate." 10-5-53.

The Liverpool *Echo* digested a note from a correspondent, C. B. Hoylake, recalling the "superstition" of the sea, that ships condemned to be scrapped sometimes "commit suicide" by wrecking or burning themselves before man can take them apart. The following names of vessels are cited, but with only one date:

Empress of Australia  
Warspite  
Sao Paulo  
Eaglet (formerly Eagle) 1927

*Echo* 11-6-52.

Food on the table, fuel in her tanks, ship seaworthy but battered by storm, mast broken—the *Holchu* was found crewless, drifting, 200 miles South of Nicobar Islands, on the direct shipping route from Singapore to Colombo. She contained tea, tobacco and soap. Called an 80-tonner. A lifeboat was still in its davits. Estimated to have had a crew of 5 Asians. Towed into Colombo by the British cargo ship *Ranee*. Details appeared from 2-10 to 3-20-53, but no clue to what happened was reported. *Cr.* Birchby, Elsander, Ritchie and others.

Radio messages were alleged to have been received up to May 9, from the trawler *Milford Viscount*, although the Transport Ministry has decided she went down with her crew of 12, off the West coast of Ireland, the night of April 2-3. *Daily Express*, 12-2-50.

A DRIVERLESS CAR also reported, to keep things normally Fortean. 4:00 a.m. bright moonlight, on the hill beyond Creedy Bridge on the Exeter-Crediton road, an Austin came over the hill on the "wrong" side of the road, smashed into the car of Reginald J. Simons, of Paddington. Simon's car caught fire. Both were badly smashed. The Austin's steering wheel was broken off, and the seat was stained with blood, but no driver was to be found. *Star*, 10-13-53.

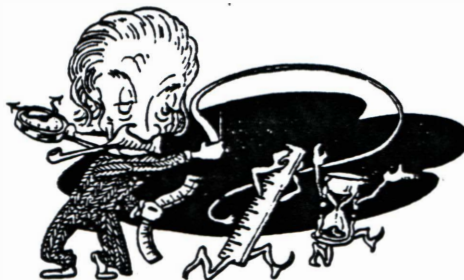
GIRL LIVES ON AIR, they say, in Mercara, Coorg State, South India. The name is Dhanalaxmi, and her age was 17 when she stopped eating and drinking, even water. Called a "unique example of *vayu karshina* (living on air)"—but she made no mystical or religious pretensions for herself. Our accounts are from—first—the notorious *Tis-Bits*, London, 1-2-53, then the *London Times*, 8-12-53, why so long after, who can say? Lastly, from NANA, undated, but culled by M.F.S. Duncan in September. The girl is said not to have eaten or drunk water for 18 months. The General Hospital of Bangalore was looking into it. *Cr.* Russell, Gee, Duncan.

CIVIL DEFENSE FLOPS continued. The American public continued to demonstrate its awareness of the fraud foisted upon it in the name of Civil Defense. At a show, much-publicized, held in the 101st Armored Cavalry Armory, N.Y.C., 3-27-54, practically the only persons in the audience were relatives of the fatheads in their silly tin-hats.

MANX CATS AGAIN were called marvels. One in South Africa and one in Florida got into the April '54 issue of the *National Rabbit Fancier*. The phenomenon has been in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, at least since 1910, and probably since 1768. *Cr.* Russell, McDonald.

DISPLACED BEASTIES appeared in odd places—a "cobra" in Holbeach St. Matthews, Lincs., 8-17-53; a "South European" lizard in Exmouth, near Bristol, 10-3-53; a tortoise in a junk-man's truck, Camberwell, 10-15-53; a 2-foot alligator in Valley Stream, L.I., 10-24-53; an 8-foot alligator "in a New York sewer"—no date—and a "freshly-dead brown bear in a Brooklyn ditch"—ambiguous references in a review of Willy Ley's, *Dragons in Amber*, *Sat. Rev. Lit.*; a boa in Remer, Minn., 10-25-53; a newborn lamb on the seat of a parked car, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 3-22-54.

And—the pay-off—to reassure all good Fortean that the world has not changed, the SPEED OF LIGHT has been recalculated by the National Bureau of Standards, and it now comes out "some 12 miles (per second) faster" than before. A "radio interferometer" was used to correct the old 186,324 miles per second. *N. Y. Times*, 5-3-54. *Cr.* Mitchell.



### GREINER HAS A HIT

In the best Fortean tradition of "thinking thoughts no man has ever dared to think before"—S. Greiner, the author of *Prelude to Sanity*, has now given us *CRISIS AND RESURRECTION*. The contents will be considered here later. This is to tell everybody who knows what Greiner is shooting at that he has made a lot of bullseyes. From the Society. \$4.00



### FORTEAN COINCIDENCES

This section leads off with the promised half of a datum already published in DOUBT. Remember the utterly inexplicable knot in a ship's anchor chain? Well, the first one of record in the archives was contributed by M.F.S. Joquel. The ship was the *USS Caliente*, an oiler, and the Navy sent out photos. The "overhand or lover's knot" was tied in her chain about 20 feet from the anchor, discovered when the crew heaved the hook from a bottom 9 fathoms down. *L. A. Times*, 1-27-47.

The next one also refers to a previous note in DOUBT—about a Jolly Roger seen floating over the House of Parliament. That gave some gals the



idea, perhaps. Anyway, on the morning of 11-19-53 Old Style, a woman's green dress was seen flying from the flagstaff on the Victoria Tower of the same edifice. On the dress strips of red braid spelled out, "Equal pay for women." *Cr. Russell.*

Robert Aldersley, *ae* 2, kicked in the head by a horse, had been unconscious in a Worcester hospital 42 days on 4-25-51. "One of the longest periods of unconsciousness yet known." But on 12-4-51, Nellie Cheetham, *ae* 15, unconscious for six months after a road accident, opened her eyes and recognized her grandmother, in Bolton. Six days later, 12-10-51, Joe Colbridge, *ae* 6, had been unconscious in a Manchester hospital 202 days after being struck by a car. *Cr. Elsander.*

Russell and Gee—which is also a coincidence of sorts—were the only members to send in the account of a divorce action in Sydney. Case of *Fear versus Fear*, and the correspondent was named Bogie. 7-10-51. Coupled with that is one from Mitchell, 10-6-51. In Birmingham, Ala., in the same jail simultaneously were James Truelove and Harry Leroy Love. The charge was the same against both—desertion and non-support of their families.

In Pittsburgh one James Williams was stabbed to death, 7-23-51. A man was held for questioning—and his name was James Williams too. *Cr. Oltscher.*

Near Lynwood, Calif., 8-28-51, a Post Office helicopter crashed. "It was the third postal helicopter to crash in the area this summer." *Manchester Guardian.*

Dr. Ralph E. Lapp, nuclear scientist, quoted in the *Buffalo Evening News*, 8-29-51, from "a recent issue of *Newsweek*" as advocating construction of a city—to the tune of five million bucks—expressly to be bombed, "with streets, churches, homes, factories," etc. This, to give manufacturers the opportunity to test various materials under bombing conditions. *Cr. Giles.*

In the one and only *Echo*, 11-26-51, Dr. Harold C. Urey (remember him?) was quoted as complaining in a Chicago radio broadcast, that "the scientific advisers of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission showed an unjustifiable lack of enthusiasm for the peaceful development of atomic energy." *Cr. Russell.*

That must have raised an eyebrow or two, if no blood pressure, in England, because A.P. from London, 11-18, and the *London Times*, 11-19, described at some length the first central-heating plant powered by atomic energy, then actually in operation, heating 80 offices at the research establishment in Harwell, England. *Cr. Elsander* and anon.

On different pages of the same issue of the *Seattle Times*, 9-23-51, these two pieces: Dr. Robert A. Millikan asserting it "unlikely" that means could be found to "trigger" an H-bomb, because temperatures and pressures around the sun would have to be duplicated . . . The other, a bit from Science Service, stating that Dr. A. V. Grosse reported the sun's heat and pressure—9,000 degrees F. is mentioned—were already approached, as closely as 8,000 degrees, by fluorine burning in hydrogen.

That was followed up in the *Echo*, 10-11-51, by a report of a speech by William Laurence, in Nashville, Tenn., predicting the H-bomb in two years. *SIC.*

Elsender groups 8 pieces about gas, between October 13 and November 1, 1951, Old Style.

10-13, rescue work in a coal mine at Weetslale,

where an explosion had occurred two weeks before, was held up by gas.

10-14, discovery of a dead cat led to finding a mother *ae* 91 and her son, gassed from a leak in a meter, Birmingham. The woman was dead, the man still alive.

10-15, eleven children and the verger taken from a gas-filled church at Lenton. Elsander writes "full moon" on this clipping.

10-15, at Edgware, a man and his two daughters, 12 and 14, found overcome, the girl 14 already dead. The girl 12 died next day and the father continued seriously ill.

10-15, one man was killed, others injured by a "tank" explosion in a tunnel near Gateshead.

10-15, the gasoline tank of a cabin cruiser blew up injuring 3, at a mooring near Windsor Bridge, Berks.

10-19, coroner's verdict returned in case of 4 killed three weeks before by carbon monoxide in a cabin cruiser at Doncaster.

11-1, the Captain and the mate of 650 ton vessel were overcome in a cabin by carbon monoxide at Par Harbour, Cornwall. They were revived.

Borden sent a series in November of 21 F.S.

Two train wrecks on the same line in Wyoming. Passenger trains, killing 21, at Evanston, 11-12, and two hours later, two freights collided without casualties, 20 miles from Laramie.

On November 13 in Minneapolis, three boys were drowned in a river. Same date, in Georgiana, Ala., three hunters drowned in a creek.

The circus series occurred 11-14 and 15. Evy Trost fell from a high wire in Baltimore, then Fred Miller fell 80 feet with part of his rigging, at Harlingen, Texas; both were killed. The third was only seriously injured when a flying horizontal bar broke and let Juan Ibarra down, Springfield, Ill.

TV speaks! 12-31-51, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Iselle, L.A., returned home and found their daughter Donna, *ae* 6, strangled. The baby-sitter, Delora May Campbell, *ae* 16, had been watching television. She was booked on a murder charge.

The following 2-4-52, in Chicago, unnamed parents returned home, and found their 14-year-old daughter shot by her father's pistol. She had been watching television with two unnamed boy friends, and told them she was going to kill herself, they said. She died. The father believes the boys, and so does Y.S.

Within one week, five children of the Woodward family, Weymouth, twins *ae* 6, boys 7 and 12, and a girl 10, all were operated upon for appendicitis. 12-3-51 *Cr. Elsander.*

The proprietor of the North Star pub, Harrow, Middlesex, was about to call "time" preparatory to closing, 2-4-52, when his roof fell in. *Daily Mail*, and the ed adds a footnote, stating that on the Saturday previous, the roof of the New Crown pub, Islington, London, had fallen in, injuring three. *Cr. Elsander.*

Two mothers backed cars over their own children in south Florida, in identical accidents, 2-9-52. In Miami Springs, Lawrence Hollis, a "baby", fell out when the door blew open. On Plantation Key, it was Colleen Kemp, *ae* 2, who fell out. *Cr. Sussman, Bristol.*

In Worcester, Mass., 6-21-52, two women who never had seen each other and were not related,

each gave birth to a son, within six minutes of each other. Both girls had the maiden name of Shirley Weagle, aceto U.P.

In Pittsburgh are two boys to watch! William Bolen and George Noe, each 15, were walking along the Allegheny River, 7-20-52. They found a nude body, said to be that of a swimmer, seen in the water earlier by other witnesses. His clothing was found on the bank.

The boys went back to their sauntering and found a second body, floating, "body decomposed"—the Deputy Coroner said it must have been in the water six months. *Cr. Olcher.*

The Edmonton (Alberta) *Journal* stacked these two stories up in a column, 8-5-52.

Patsy Partridge was aboard the *Veendam* going to Europe with her parents and a sister. Patsy was 18, and she disappeared. The ship reversed its course, going over the route of the previous 24 hours, but did not find her.

The second story is about Bonita nee Hinchcliffe, the bride of R. W. King, she *ae* 22, aboard the liner *Ascania* for their honeymoon. When the *Ascania* reached Liverpool, the Wednesday before the Partridge case was reported. Bonita could not be found aboard. *Cr. Trupp.*

David Haering lost his left arm and left leg in a train accident "20 years ago". He lives in Morningside, near Pittsburgh, and apparently is employed by an artificial limb company who outfitted him. He was going to Washington on company business 9-18-52, and according to his boss he was told to take the B. & O. "To save money", he took a bus. His wife, because of a premonition, gave her husband "a rosary and a religious medal to carry for protection." The bus crashed. His injuries were called "minor".

All in 23 minutes, in a single block on 23rd Street, N.Y.C., 9-10-52, a woman—apparently a suicide—jumped out of a hotel and was killed, a painter on a scaffold—only two floors up—lost his balance and fell to the pavement, and an 18-year-old girl appeared screaming at a second-floor window, threatening to jump. She was subdued. *Cr. Sussman and Steinberg.*

Another series by Borden takes up in October, 22 F.S.

10-3, Bristol, Pa., a baby strangled in its crib.

10-3, in Philadelphia, another baby strangled in its crib—this one in "Children's Welfare Center".

A "found dead or dying" series in Philly begins 10-2, a woman of 44 in a hotel; 10-3, a man of 65 in his apartment, a man of 58 collapsed at work—and died, a man of 62 was found unconscious in a gas-filled kitchen—the stove burners were all on, a woman of 52 collapsed while walking with her daughter and son-in-law; 10-5, a man of 50 collapsed while walking in a cemetery—and died.

On the same days—10-2, a boy 3 killed by a truck; 10-3, a trucker was thrown out of his cab in an accident, not fatal; that night, a man thrown from his car by collision with a truck, and he died; another trucker, same night, skidded off road, hit poles, brought down high tension wires, and was electrocuted; a boy 4 was struck and killed by a truck; two men injured in a collision between a truck and a car. All this was just warming up. A bus and a truck collided 10-4, killing 4 and injuring 13. Same day, a trucker was burned to death when

an interurban trolley crashed into his truck. Borden asks, "Did some super-psychologist toss dust in every tenth truck driver's eyes to note his behavior?"

Incidentally, Borden's arrangement of his data *without* "Scotch-tape" should be an inspiration to all. Many thanks, E. H.!

Here's a lulu.

A man opened a tin of milk at Rotherham, England. It was Chicago milk. Out of the can fell a newspaper "cutting" *ten years old*, printed only 10 miles from where the can was opened. Stop me if you think any of the sisters was pulling a fast one. Six of the man's sisters were present. He started to toss the paper into the fire—instead of bringing suit against the milk company—which would be normal behavior for any but our British cousins!

His wife stopped him, unfolded the paper, and read the account of the death of a soldier husband of one of the sisters!

Had enough?

These gentle folk are now writing to the milk company to see if *they* know how the paper got into the milk.

So help me, that got printed, in the *Sunday Express*, 11-2-52, and Gee sent it to us.

The coincidences continued into the year 23 F.S., and on and on.

"Two elderly men who lived in shacks at opposite ends of San Rafael (Calif.) were found dead" 2-3-53. After the authorities moved the body of Rudolph Grossman, 76, dead several days, probably of a heart attack, they found that he had \$9,900 in savings banks, and owned some stocks of value. After they moved Mike Yukovich, 72, from his squalor, they found savings of \$19,800, and that he owned 40 shares of Bank of America. *Cr. Raven.*

In Ft. Wayne, Ind., 2-8-53, a growth "hidden in" a man's back was removed. The man—Clifford A. Stanyer, Lima, O.—was *ae* 61. The "growth" was a "teratoma", which might have been a Siamese twin, under slightly different circumstances. *Cr. Goeller.*

On 2-21-53, from Osaka, Japan, came the report of an operation upon a "teenage railroad worker", a male. "Embedded in his lung" was found "a growing baby girl"—which, under somewhat different circumstances would have been born his twin sister. *Cr. Mitchell.*

This is Fortean on two scores—since John Lister is an M.F.S.

John is the proprietor of the House of Mystery at Gold Hill, Oregon. Many of you have been there and described its effects to Y.S. They have been described also in the *American Weekly*, and mentioned several times in DOUBT. As of 6-19-53 Old Style, John was suing George D. Hudson and Leroy Shipman, proprietors of "Confusion Hill" in California, asking an injunction and \$562,000 damages for "imitating his natural wonders". The suit was probably good publicity for both attractions. The California team retaliated by asking for \$8,000 damages to them.

Y.S. never has viewed either marvel on the sites now occupied, but at Coney Island and elsewhere—in his youth—he has seen the same stunts duplicated.

7-12-53, a fire in St. Paul's Abbey, Newton, N.J., was called the *sixth* in local religious institutions within two weeks.



In London, 1-14-54, three churches suffered fires in the night before.

8-3-53, five churches were burglarized in one night, Watkins Glen, N.Y. *Cr. Mitchell.*

Gerald Rosenthal, *ae* 17, punched his father in an argument. Father fell, Gerald thought he was dead: went into a subway and let a train grind him to death. The father was not dead or even badly hurt. N.Y.C. 10-8-53.

In San Leandro, Calif., 10-9-53, a letter arrived informing William Rollen, *ae* 10, that his father had been killed in an accident. William shot and killed himself. Next day another letter came saying the elder Rollen had not been in the accident, was still alive. *Cr. Trupp.*

No time stated in the *Times*, but, 2-4-54, Robert M. Robinson, 60, plunged from the 17th floor of 11 Broadway, killing himself and injuring others.

At 3 p.m., Walter Otto Singer, 60, plunged from the 22nd floor of 15 Park Row. He was killed, but nobody else was hurt.

February 15, near Wooster, O., William Carrison was driving to visit his son Charles. With him was Charles sister. Unaware that his father was coming to visit him, Charles was driving to see his father, taking along his wife and five children. Their cars collided head-on, killing everybody but the five children, who were injured. *Cr. Gee.*

3-20-54, the Lizard Lighthouse, Cornwall, suffered a fire in the oil pits of the engine that operated the light. The keeper and his assistants only just barely saved the light from explosion and destruction.

3-19-54—the night before—the light at Skerryvore, Inner Hebrides, had suffered a fire that put out the light for the first time since 1844, when it was built. The three keepers had been exposed, clinging to the rocks twelve hours before they were rescued. *Cr. Elsander.*

May 3, an explosion in a mine at Saltburn, England, trapped a man. Thirty-one miners were overcome by gas while trying to rescue their comrade.

May 4, an explosion in a mine at Ribolla, Tuscany, Italy, killed 15, injured 20, trapped 59. Both explosions were down about 800 feet. *Cr. Elsander.*

The last item in this group lacks the year. Won't you all be careful to be sure each datum bears full details? Thank you.

10-24-? Two miles from Crawfordsville, Ind., Charles B. Sosbe lost control of his car, struck a telephone pole, taken to hospital in ambulance. A few hours later, Robert P. West, same spot, lost control, hit same pole, taken to same hospital in same ambulance. Same tow-truck removed the wrecks.

### FORTEAN IRONIES

Remember Gottfried Bueren, the Hamburger who lost his case to the Orthodox, about the temperature of the sun? He was killed in an auto accident, 5-2-54. *Cr. Parr.*

A woman praying at a shrine in Singapore, asking for prosperity, was robbed of \$35. *Haverhill Gazette*, 10-11-53.

Dr. James R. Shaw of the Department of the Interior appears to be speaking up for the Indians. He reported to Congress that, whereas whites average near to 70 years in life-span, the average for Navajos is less than 20 years. *Boston Post*, 3-8-54.

A launch full of people going to a religious service at Villa Hayes, on the Paraguay River, sank, drowning 32. *N. Y. Times*, 12-16-22.

A busload of pilgrims going to a Catholic sanctuary in San Luis, Argentina, was plunged into a river by a blow-out, 4-29-54. Eleven were killed, including five children. *Cr. Mitchell.*

### CUR ENEMIES RUN

Your good work in spreading awareness of tonsillectomy as a cause of POLIO has had good effect. Keep it up. The medicos are admitting we were right.

The best thing that could happen to our case against the "lie detector" was to have McCarthy call out for a test. Anything touched by the slime of his approval disintegrates like a windshield.

Chicago members have joined in exposing the anti-rabies racket there.

Several effective treatments for cancer are gaining wide recognition in spite of all the American Medical Association can do to stop them.

The performance of the White Elephant of Palomar is so pitiful that it almost makes us cry in our gin.

Fluoridization of public drinking water is having hard sledding.

Keep the data coming on all these subjects and we'll get into detailed analysis as space and time affords.



### COLORED RAIN — SNOW

Blood red snow near Naples, Italy. "It was caused either by volcanic fumes or by swarms of red microorganisms." 2-23-54.

Blue rain and pink snow on Rensselaer, N.Y., are attributed to "infiltration" from a dye plant—the nearby General Aniline Corp. 2-28-54.

Red snow on Kangamint, Greenland, 3-13-54, reported from Copenhagen. Attributed to "volcanic or desert dust blown from the American continent".

Beige-colored snow over wide areas of the Mid-Midwest, 3-13-54. Attributed to "dust storm" and snow clouds in collision.

"Mysterious goo" spattered dwellings, San Jose, Calif., 4-5-54. "Brown, oily substance" on houses, walks, streets,—apparently came from the West.

Moline, Ill., Davenport, Ia., Detroit, Mich., had blue rain, 4-8-54. "Granules, half a millimeter in diameter" called "vegetable material"—*not* radioactive. But the rain was! "Normal" count at Moline is 24 to 26 per minute. This rain hit 1801 . . . Called "elm tree buds" in Detroit.

Pittsburg houses hit by a foul-smelling grey smear, no rain. 5-3-54.

Black snow on Geneva, Switzerland, attributed to the foreign delegations burning secret documents. *N. Y. Journal American*, 5-9-54.

## FIRST PRIZE

Although this is primarily a follow-up issue, some of the current data is too bewitching to keep.

The Blossom goes to Paul Kiepe, whose letter explaining the aberration of the Disney check-writer is reproduced in facsimile.

PAUL KIEPE

May 25, 1954

The Fortean Society  
New York City

Hon. S:

Solution to the Mickey Mouse problem is this:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

John E Walker --Disney machine name  
1 6 8 4 5 5 1 3 2 5 9 --" " #s

1 6 8 5 5 5 1 3 2 5 9 --adjusted #s

John E Walker --adjusted name

Now here we have a clear case--possibly the first one to come to the attention of Zienze--of the true animation of a mechanical brain.

Key to the situation floods upon you when you consider the connotations of the guy's handle--John-e walker. The human gets potted and thick-tongued from absorbing this Scottish decoction; the humanoid check-writer mimes this fleshy weakness simply by absorbing the name or the stuff!

Until induced to take the pledge, clearly the gadget would write 6 5 5 7 5 6 5 (ODE GWOW) instead of Old Crow, 61821 252259 (OSHKA BEBBER) instead of Oscar Pepper, and so forth.\*

Now the reason the rummoxed numbers appear instead of stinko letters Zienze already has elaborated both in Freud's doctrine of the Super-ego and in the

---

\*--provided its tastes ran to the bourbons, of course.



- 2 -

widely held theory of inebriation that alcohol hits first the higher brain centers.

The peripheral centers of the machine--the ones that write letters--one shot of scotch knocks out altogether, thus satisfying the Censor which is powerless to prevent the sozzled Id from expressing itself at its own--i. e., the digitary--level.

Are there any further questions?

To that may be added a paragraph which M.F.S. Mackey gleaned from an "expert" to explain what operators do when "pathological processes occur in computing machines".

"How do we deal with these accidents in the use of the machine? The first thing which we try is to clear the machine of all information, in the hope that when it starts again with different data, the difficulty may not recur. Failing this, if the difficulty is in some point permanently or temporarily inaccessible to the clearing mechanism, we shake the machine, or if it is electrical, subject it to an abnormally large electrical impulse, in the hope that we may reach the inaccessible part, and throw it into a position where the false cycle of its activities will be interrupted. If even this fails, we may disconnect an erring part of the apparatus, for it is possible that what yet remains may be adequate for our purpose."



Second-prize to Elsander for these four pieces:

"A young lion in Cairo Zoo is changing its sex, daily losing its whiskers. It will soon be a lioness." *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 4-23-54.

Early in April I.N.S. sent what purported to be a "photo" of "the" H-bomb explosion to its papers throughout the world. It was in fact a drawing made by a Walt Disney cartoon animator. Picture and apology appear in the *Sunday Dispatch*, 5-2-54.

"Hundreds of hippopotamuses are dying of a suspected anthrax plague in Uganda." Get that semantics! 5-13-54.

A new British sub is powered by hydrogen peroxide. *N.N. Mail* 3-5-54.

Mitchell's best related an operation upon a sea lion in Cincinnati. The animal died of a tonsillectomy. *N.Y. Times*, 3-31-54.

Also from Mitchell, the poetic marksmanship of the Illinois Air National Guard. A wing tank fell off one of their planes and burned a church to the ground at Ithaca, Ohio. *N.Y. Times*, 4-15-54.

Each cop in Denver has to sit for a rogue's gallery type photo every year. This year, the entire force sat, one at a time, taking nearly a week. Then it was discovered that the camera was not working. *Boston Evening American*, 3-22-54.

The *New Yorker*, 10-25-52, interviewed Whipple of Harvard Observatory:—"the approved procedure for discovering comets is not to hang out a window at night but to make a painstaking examination of celestial telescopic photographs."

*Newsweek*, 11-3-52:—"Only an astronomer, nocturnal by habit and abstruse by training, would think of studying the sun at night."

*N. N. Mail*, 3-24-54, interviewed Sir Harold Jeffreys, Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy at Cambridge: "I never look at the sky. I just scribble on bits of paper."



## STILL THE PALLID DATA MARCH

Before we forget it, it looks as if that AD-X-2, battery restorer, that started people resigning and being fired in Washington, remember?—is good stuff after all. The Post Office lifted its "fraud" order, so if you want to see what it can do for you, address Pioneers, Inc., Oakland, California.

In one of *Collier's* columns, 4-23-49 Old Style, a kind of mutilated Casper Hauser was said to have lived in Meteghan, Nova Scotia, from 1860 to 1912. People called him "Jerome". We put our Nova Scotia spies upon it, and they could find nothing in local papers. Anybody ever hear of this? *Cr. Giles.*

An Alaska brown bear and a polar bear were mated and produced hybrids which lived—lived to be re-crossed and produce "double-hybrids"—triplets born 1-1-51, Washington, D.C. Zoo. Only one survived—as of January 4. Will someone step over and ask? Hybrids are supposed—by Orthodoxy—to be sterile, y'know.

A couple twists on this one lift it out of the ruck of crashing dish stories. In Kitchener, Ont., Howard Santo claims he has a sea-shell ash-tray, five inches in diameter, which has flown across the room at least ten times in two months, as of 5-14-51. It zips fast, but lands softly, never chips, and the two extra features are, no poltergeist-aged girls mentioned, and the tray always flies *due East*. *Cr. Williams.*

We've been gagged by the British use of reclaimed sewage fats in their lipsticks, but we had overlooked that "vitamin B-12" was being extracted from "sewage sludge" in the U.S.A. Once used only for fertilizer, now A.P. reports, 8-25-51 Old Style, that it can be used as a supplementary diet for farm animals. M.F.S. Staats, who sent it in, writes, "This one fascinates me. Perhaps also in capsules? Either way, we get it."

Will somebody ask Food and Drug—without mentioning the Society?

"An unidentified girl and her mother"—but how the relationship was established if they remained "unidentified" is not stated—pounced on a nameless youth of 18 in a street in Charleston, S.C., 9-29-51, both biting him severely. *Cr. Bristol.*

A.P. actually put on its wires, 12-12-51, the story of Selby Turner and his secretary, Miss Lillian Cassano. No street address or firm name given, but the office was then on the seventh floor. To the window sill, on two occasions, acc'to A.P., came a pigeon "wearing" pince-nez glasses. Assertion is that a newspaper photographer got a picture of it, but no photo is reproduced. *Cr. Bristol.*

In Derby, England, was a girl, then 18, name Jane Hitchman. When she walks out, strange cats follow her everywhere. She can't drive them away. *N.N. Mail*, 3-6-52.

Leslie C. Peltier, one of our most celebrated amateur astronomers, found another invisible comet for the professionals, 6-25-52.

Birds "playing with matches" set fire to a tree in Jackson, Mich., acc'to the firemen, 7-29-52. *Cr. Bristol.*

Science Service, which is the Scripps-Howard clown department, sent out a call August 9, for 30 gallons of water that must be more than 5 years old but under 20. If you have any, it was wanted by Dr. Williard F. Libby, U. of Chicago.

The volcano Paricutin, in Mexico, was said to have died at the age of nine years. 8-18-52. *Cr. Mitchell.*

In the village of Capriglie, Italy, near Asti, 44 persons were ill from eating bread containing arsenic. *N.Y. Times*, 8-24-52. *Cr. Mitchell.*

Legal history was said to be made in Glasgow, when William Gourlay was sentenced to three years by Lord Birnam, if I understand this correctly. The prosecutor was R. S. Johnstone, the defending attorney, W. Patullo. The conviction was obtained by identification of a big-toe-print. Whether this occurred September 11 or November 9 is not clear, but one or the other, in '52 Old Style.



Whereas, in Cleveland, is a man—Matthew Elavsky—called an alien, who has refused for 14 years to be fingerprinted. His objection is based upon the Book of Revelation, where the faithful are adjured to beware "the mark of the beast—in their right hand." 3-6-no year.

From Roger W. Babson's Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, New Hampshire, they sent out a program for a summer seminar in the year 22 F.S., and on the back of it one read:

### "CONFIDENTIAL"

"Special 'Gravity Chairs' have been secured from Japanese sources, which chairs should interest all attendants. They aid the circulation of the blood. Remember that gravity is Enemy Number One for middle aged and older people.

"Attendants who have pains in their legs and arms will be told upon request about 'Priscolene' which Mr. Babson calls 'Anti-Gravity Pills'. These can be purchased at any drug store, but only on your physician's prescription.

"Special Gravity Bulletins on Posture, Foot pains and other personal troubles will be freely supplied, but on request only."

That sounded like the spiel of any other medicine man to Y.S., so he wrote for more dope. Well, sir, the "Anti-Gravity Pills" are "Priscoline Hydrochloride"—a brand of Benzazoline Hydrochloride—and your doc can find out about them by writing to Ciba Pharmaceutical Products, Summit, N. J.

The "Gravity Chairs" are "Barwa Chairs", for sale by Jordan Marsh, Boston, in the summer furniture, seventh floor, \$32.95 as of 9-17-52.



The magazine, WHY, which Y.S. never has seen, played a morbid trick on the Congress 10-30-52. They sent an "intelligence quiz" to 25 senators and representatives. Every one refused to take it.

Warren, Ohio, High School's girl choir sings okay in school, but when they go out to sing they faint in bevies. The Tuesday before 12-13-52, seven fainted at the Exchange Club; next day, six fainted at the Rotary Club, five, at the Kiwanis. *Cr. Borden.*

You know why the French want those Coelacanths exclusively? There's a theory that they are the source of the world's oil supply, accto the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 12-31-52. *Cr. Elsander.*

Only one item of Forteanism occurs in the accounts of the most recent Greek quakes. An unidentified paper refers to "the ground shaking and groaning beneath them."

Two sets of footprints in the snow, inexplicable and not alike, were reported, four miles apart, Isle of Wight, 2-8-54. One set, might have been made by a "four-footed thing", each print the size of a snowshoe, made a 50-yard semicircle, beginning at the edge of a 350-ft cliff, and ending at the cliff edge. The other set was "five-toed", each print 20 inches long, began in the middle of a tennis court and headed "toward the Needles". Doesn't say how far the trail went. *Daily Express.*

Same paper, 4-13-54. "Just after drought-ridden Texas finished praying for rain, a cloudburst fell on Alamo, "floods five feet deep".

Accto the *Redondo Breeze*, the police of Manhattan Beach, Calif., were called to find "four boys and two girls . . . last seen in a Studebaker sedan." The crime? Circulating a petition for peace.

The N. Y. Board of Health held a hearing for the milk companies, 3-9-53, to decide if the dairies should be permitted to stop printing the day of the week on milk containers. The companies said "That the cost of dating and losses from returns of out-dated (milk) is borne by the consumers. However . . . economies resulting from eliminating dating cannot possibly be reflected in a lowering of prices to consumers at this time . . ." *Cr. Steinberg.*

In that "crazy-bread" town in France—Pont St. Esprit—four people were sick, 3-16-53, from bread again. This time, fuel oil had seeped into the flour. *Cr. Mitchell.*

A tree chopped down in Centereach, L.I., glowed phosphorescently wherever the ax cut it, accto Harvey Aronson in *Newsday*, 8-31-53. Tree was apparently an ordinary oak before that. Experts gave up—and the tree glowed on. *Cr. Mitchell.*

An undated snipping asserts that Mr. and Mrs. E. Thomson, of Burley-in-Wharfedale, Yorks, own a tree that has always borne apples, until—for a change

—it gave out with greengages. Will some Yorkshire member step over and see?

Harvard announced, 9-10-53, that it may have found the long-wished-for "tenth" planet. It's a 12th magnitude spot in Pisces. Highly appropriate, Pisces is the birth-sign of Y.S.

The bubbles in the English rivers, as well as those that covered the Ohio, were all "identified" as detergents by 12-3-53. *Cr. Borden.* Either Lever Brothers or P. & G. would pay well for that formula!

An Italian seismo man has gone Drayson one better. Peter Beundani, in *Epoca*, Rome, postulates four unknown planets to account for earthquakes. One revolves around Sol in 385 years, one in 782 years, one in 1,357 years—Old Pokey—once in 2,865 years. That is what might be called Music of the Spheres on a rhythm by Hindemith.

2-16-54. The French Navy did some work on Picard's bathysphere and beat his record, going down more than two and a half miles in the Atlantic. *Cr. Russell.*

The Meteorological Organization of United Nations calls all attempts to make rain to date, "inconclusive". 3-4-54. *Cr. Mitchell.*

The City Engineer of Carbondale, Pa., has a plan for stopping that underground fire that is eating up two million tons of coal near that city. It has been burning 14 years. The plan would cost \$3 million. *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 4-3-54. *Cr. Elsander.*

A ewe in Edlington, Lincs., (which is the first line of a limerick if I ever wrote one) has given birth to six healthy lambs. *Cr. Elsander.*

Nasty man, Paul H. Steel, Past President of the Western Bird Banding Association, put his flat foot down the throat of the Capistrano bunco monks who have been giving with swallow applesauce all these years. Some banded swallows arrived "home" three weeks ahead of schedule in 24 F.S. *Cr. Wakefield.*

Dr. Robert Wilkins, Boston U., credits an ancient Hindu drug called Rauwolfia with salubrious effects upon high blood pressure and associated diseases. *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 3-18-54.

The same paper is more or less crusading to get the town and Parliament to do something about the now infamous "grey dust". It's now attributed to power stations, especially Dunston.

Sunday night, May 23-24, hundreds of Romans waited for the "end of the world". Nobody knows how the prophecy got started, but when the Pope saw the milling crowds he gave them hell. *Daily Mail.* *Cr. Elsander.*

To round off this section and give the Pope a hand with his tranquilizing chores, that Chicagoan—James T. Mangan—who has claimed Space before, was on TV and spoke boldly for his domain. "Celestia or Nation of Outer Space". *Cr. Bump.*

### "SAFETY" GLASS

When windshields began to crack up all over England the press concentrated its attention on a single stretch of road, ignoring or depreciating reports from other sections of the country. Pretty soon some writer had invented the "Missile Mile" although no missile whatever had been found in a single instance.

Time after time the word "shots" was used, but no shots were ever heard. "Mysterious marksmen" were referred to, but no human was ever discovered on the sending end, and no pellet or bullet or stone on the receiving end.



Not counting data already published in DOUBT on this subject, but only the accumulation since we first mentioned it, here are 55 data on the British phenomena.

Over there, the point of "laminated" versus "toughened" glass has been raised, and the *Sunday Express*, 2-7-54, asserts that "most" of the shattered windshields have been of "toughened" glass. Racing car drivers have been quoted in disparagement of the "toughened" variety.

As Y.S. understands the difference, "laminated" glass is three ply, the sheets of glass being stuck together with a transparent substance which is not glass at all, but an adhesive "skin" of materials which do not splinter and fly in your face in case of crash, and which prevent the glass itself from doing that also.

"Toughened" glass, on the other hand, is a single thickness of glass covered on both sides by this or another non-flying substance. The racing drivers say it's no good.

Nw that the phenomena have spread all over the U.S.A. and Canada, one primary datum needed in all cases is the nature of the glass, whether "laminated" or "toughened". Nobody has mentioned that yet in all the 69 items, covering thousands of cars, received here since March, 24 F.S.

That detail is doubly important, inasmuch as, besides the degree of safety involved, the question arises if it may not be the chemical composition of the non-glass portion—the adhesive in the laminating process—which is doing the disintegrating.

The Bomb Boys who have been filling the air with vapors they know nothing about are quick to say, "It wasn't us!"—and alibi by pointing to radium being kept in glass bottles. Glass is impervious to radio-activity (maybe), but what about the safety substance?

Dr. Frank Cox, director of research for Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., where they make a lot of windshields, says, "Any known chemical that can attack glass will also attack people and car bodies." *Ann Arbor News*, 4-30-54. Quite so, old boy.

Mrs. Gary May of St. Catherine, Ontario, saw "droplets" hitting her windshield from a cloudless sky, and heard "pinging". She stuck her hand out of the window, and where a droplet hit her hand she felt a sting like the puncture of a thorn. *Toronto Globe and Mail*, 4-26-54.

Also, Marilyn Joblin, ae 3, of Toronto, playing alone in the yard, cried out in pain, and on her nose appeared a red spot—as from a droplet—which later scabbed over etc. Her picture with wound "a red angry mark" was in the *Toronto Telegram*, 4-26-54.

This line of reasoning would lead us to the vast accumulation of data on "fall-outs" etc., for which we have not the space this session, so let's stick to glass.

Exception, please. Here is another item pertinent to the examination of the non-glass portion of windshields. In Brantford, Ontario, plastic draperies at windows of a house developed holes when the windows were opened, 4-23-54. The holes were the shape of a leaf-pattern stamped in blue on the drapes.

Eye-glasses, tumblers and window glass are going too—with no "missiles" found—and the glass covering a compass of an airplane in flight was shattered,

"2,000 feet over the *misile mile*" accto the *Star* (Brit.) 2-23-54.

Run-down of house windows and a raft of ballistics will have to wait for another issue. Credit for the above, to C. Williams, Jessup, M. Smith, Oltcher, Powers, W. P. Grant, D. C. King, Trupp, Ritchie, Mitchell, Meanie, Borden, Millar, Hehr, E. S. Anderson, Gustine, Wakefield, Bump, Darling, Steinberg, Dickhoff, Martin, Eller, Lavender, Lindner, Nelle, Hibbert, Gilkoff, Speer, Lee, Wetzell, Raven, Goldstein, Macintosh, Forster, Knothe, Vonier, Millbank, Bennett, Fadeley, F. McMahon.



### FISH, BIRDS FALL

In the week before 4-3-54, John Murphy told Toronto police that during a heavy wind and rainstorm, a fish hit him in the face, slithered into the gutter and swam away. *S. F. Chronicle*.

Now we have a name for it. Jack Powell saw gutters full of little fish in a rainstorm. Photo of him holding one, Washington (D.C.) *News*, 6-16-54. Cr. Crosby. The weatherman said "it can't and won't rain fish . . . may have come from a backed-up sewer." The backed-up sewer mind!

Boston streets were strewn with dead birds, mostly warblers and thrushes, 10-5-53. Apparently they collide with the tall buildings.

Seven partridges broke their necks flying against the windows of a school in Dalston, England, 11-28-53. Hunters were after them near by, and the headline asks, "Did birds commit suicide?" *Cr. Boulton*.

Twenty-six ducks, weighing 2 to 3 pounds each fell, dead, in a thunderstorm at Dunn, N.C. 4-17-54.

"Thousands" of dead birds—robins, sparrows and "all kinds of native birds"—littered the streets of La Grande, Oregon, at daybreak, 5-3-54.

Coos Bay, Oregon, same day, acres covered with "seeds" of a kind unknown, "about the size of a small dried pea . . . formed like many flower seeds . . . except that the exteriors are colored a pastel pink, green and other colors."

Astoria, Oregon, 4-17-54. "Tiny, dark feather-weight pellets never before noticed . . . fell throughout the day." Consistency of soot—shiny, gunmetal color—"not radioactive" tests showed.

Large, black curls of ash drifted over N.Y.C., all afternoon, 3-27-54.

Snowflakes measuring 15 inches across fell on a strip of land a mile and a half long near Hood River, Oregon, 1-25-54. "Leroy Childs, former head of the Weather Experiment Station, expressed belief that the huge flakes were the result of airplane flights."

Y.S. doesn't get that, but it may explain why Childs is the "former" head.

Vast accumulation of "locusts in the larva stage" covered miles of railroad track in Salta Province, Argentina. Caused a train wreck, 3-31-54.

# MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

The material on this page and those following comes from the MSS notes of Charles Fort. The notes begin with the year 1800 AD, and we are printing them chronologically, transcribed to the best of our ability. As you have observed from the several we have reproduced in facsimile — life size — the handwriting is difficult, to say the least; many are written in symbols and code, a personal shorthand. Each date is on a separate scrap of paper. They fill 32 boxes. The boxes are in two series, one numbered, one identified by letters of the alphabet. The numbered boxes contain records of non-human phenomena, the others, records of persons. It is our device to alternate the two series so that the printed record is chronologically consecutive.

The letters BA refer to Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which many US libraries have. The numerals, such as '11 or '64 etc., in connection with BA sometimes refer to volume number, sometimes to year. In applying for this material at your public library, mention that to the attendant and you should have no difficulty.

Back numbers of DOUBT contain all the notes to the point where we begin below. Subsequent issues will continue them until the 32 boxes are printed.

## 1867 Box 3 (Continued)

- Sep 14 Tremendous invasion by moths in N S Wales / Entomologist 4-48 / an account of a church filled with them so Oct 6th that services had to be abandoned / See Zoologist March, 1868
- 13 Enormous flights of moths in Australia, N S Wales / on 26th a flight / J. C. Russell quotes W. B. Clarke / Climate of N S Wales, p. 28 (reverse) thick, and broad and a mile long, coming in from the sea, also another such flight at Newcastle this day. Said that a vessel 20 miles out was covered with them. At St. Leonards, N S W, millions, act estimate in a church, 80,000 on the windows.
- 17 Sydney, etc. N S W invaded by moths/ alarming people / the hosts of them scattering dust or "moth-feathers" All examined were males. On Oct 7th a ship 300 miles from coast of N S W, great numbers on sea and on 8th, sea covered with them. Proc. Ent. Soc. London, 1868 - 2
- 15 (Cut) Clapham, London / "Directed by its apparent path, exactly from the moon" / BA 1868-350
- 15 11.4 p.m. London, Met / BA 68-350
- 17 Village of Bedaricux, France / Detonation — thought was exploding meteor / La Sci P Tous 12-394
- 19 At Alpine, Calif — 2 heavy shocks — "the air became dark and mountains ½ mile distant could not be seen" (indecipherable) p. 75 / says in Inigo Co., Sept 11-12, 1868 "three hundred shocks / sky was very full of smoke"
- 25 NY Herald, also issue of 26th, p. 6, 4 p.m. and continued ½ hour at Philadelphia, hailstones, some the size of hens' eggs. At Reading, Pa., some 8 inches in circumference & weighed 3 ounces
- 25 Deluge and avalanche of hail, Philadelphia / La Sci Pour Tous 13-39 / Sudden & as suddenly sun out again.
- 28 Sydney Morning Herald of / "a small but destructive beast has made its appearance in the Kalouda vineyard, on the Honter. It resembles the Elephant but is considerably less size
- Oct 2 Germany / Det met / Zeit Met 2-511
- 4 night of / birds drop dead / Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England
- 5 Linne as a faint nebulosity / by Stock (Could be "Slack".TT) BA '67-7
- 7 Afternoon, detonating meteor, Margate / Symons 2-130
- 10 Linne as a clear white spot / by Slack / BA '67-8
- 17 Linne as a white spot / by Bird / BA '67-8
- 12 Nothing in Sydney Morning Herald
- 18 In Kent, England, 9 mets in one hour from Ursa Minor / BA 68-350
- 18 (Cut) Thames Ditton, Surrey / An appearance like a shower of fire and sulphur found in puddles of water Symons Met 2-130
- 18 Pollen (not) / At Thames Ditton, Surrey / told in the Guardian of Kingstown, St. Vincent, B W I / A shower of fire for ¼ hour. Next morning, puddles and water burts covered with a thick deposit of sulphur
- 18 Monday before/ afternoon / Village of Thames Ditton, Surrey — a sound like a signal gun — an aerolite was seen to fall into the sea. Symons 2-130
- 18-20 details of 43 meteors at Hankhurst, Kent. BA 68-354
- 18-20 Orionids observed by Prof. A. S. Herschel (N.M.) Nature 64-651
- 18 10:50 to 11:50 / 7 mets Kent / BA 68-350 / Many on 19th and 20th / Streakers
- 18-20 Sky o o generally overcast in England / no obs could be collected. BA 67-382
- 18 Linne as a convex white spot, by Buckingham / BA 67-8
- 19 (Cut) (Jupiter) by J. E. Clarke of Pontefract, Yorkshire / between 10.4 and 10.33 p.m. 5 mets appeared near Jupiter BA '69-222 / Also on 20th
- 21 Over Germany / met / phe? (Fort's question.TT) Zeit Met 2-546
- 29 Great hurricane/ Nov 18 great quake / West Indies / details / Bull Seis Sc Amer 10-9

- 29 Hurricane and 2 severe shocks of quake at St. Thomas / Guardian and Government Gazette, Nov 16 (of Kingstown, St. Vincent)
- Nov 1 Night cyclone Bengal / LT Dec 4, p. 12 / 600 native boats destroyed, 30,000 native huts destroyed, 1000 killed in Calcutta
- 1 Jour Asiatic Soc of Bengal (this date) — first Pundab allusion, by Babu Gourd (indecipherable) Bysack, to the Barisal Guns — sounds / thinks are surf, but notes that never heard at Balason (paper cut off) miles from the Bay of Bengal — were confined (paper cut off) an arsenal (?at?) Barisal  
(The next four notes were clipped together by Fort.TT)
- 4 (On some notes the date is changed to, Nov 11.) (Little Balloons) Nov 11 / In Symons Met Mag 2-130 / taken from the Chatham News / Capt. James F. Beveridge of Chatham writes that upon the afternoon of the 4th Nov, (bet 3 and 4 p.m.) he saw an extraordinary sight in the heavens. He saw an acquaintance of his looking toward the sky, uttering exclamations / "On turning in the direction toward which he was looking, the west, I, also, was astonished — numberless black discs, in groups, and scattered, were passing rapidly through the air. He (p. 2) said his attention was directed to them by his little girl, who called to him, in the mill, saying, 'Look, father, here are a lot of balloons coming!' They continued for more than twenty minutes, the time I stayed / In passing in front of the sun, they looked like huge cannon shot. Several groups passed over my head, disappearing suddenly, and leaving puffs of greyish brown vapor very much like smoke." (p3) The Editor writes, "We are told that several persons saw this extraordinary phenomenon and concur in Captain Beveridge's letter." (Not Nov. 4 but 11.)
- 11 Nothing in Times, Herald, Standard, Daily News 1881, Sept 7, Little Balloons / See Nov. 4, 1867
- 11 date of Little Balloons, acto Beveridge's letter in the Chatham News, Nov 16th
- BOX A (Resumed)**
- Nov 4 LT p. 7 Witchcraft in Warwickshire
- BOX 3 (Resumed)**
- 4 Chatham / (cut) Sym's Met Mag 2/130 — Capt James Beveridge writes that between 3 & 4 in afternoon he saw something that "astonished" him — numbers of black disks in groups and scattered passing overhead for more than 20 minutes / in passing part of sun looked like large cannon shot / some disappeared suddenly leaving puffs of greyish brown vapor. Ed writes that he been told others had seen this "extraordinary phe"
- 8 LT p. 7 Volc Iceland
- 11-12 night 11:21 and 12:20 Dense dark clouds & lightning & earthquake / Jamaica — clouds preceded by several hours — LT Dec 19 p. 5 severe shock (BO)
- 11 Nothing in Maidstone and Kentish Journal
- 12 Vesuvius / Gentleman's Mag H.S.5 / Signs for last of Oct  
(A newspaper clipping on which is pencilled, Port of Spain Gazette. TT) THE NOVEMBER STAR SHOWER / Describing the wonderful star showers of November, 1867, Mr. T. W. Carr writes to the "Gazette" as follows: From midnight of the 13th November to 3 a.m. on the 14th several beautiful bolides, the forerunners of the expected meteoric star showers of the year were seen by a number of observers in Port-of-Spain. The star showers itself (sic) was observed by Mr. T. W. Carr, Mr. Main, and Dr. W. H. Stone and others, the combined total of all meteors counted from 3 a.m. on the 14th to daybreak, being 1630. . . . It was also observed in Caracas by Professor Ybarra, in Guadeloupe by Mr. Guillard, and also in Nassau, New Providence, where 1,100 meteors were counted.
- 12 (indecipherable word) & 6 mo period of Leonids / A J Sci 29-378
- 12 Geminids active on Leonid date Nov 13, 1907 / See 1866
- 12 Mets Nov 27, 1885 but so were the Perseids active
- Nov Androms. predicted for 1905 / See Nov 27, 1885
- 12 Leonids great Nov 15 morning 1901 (reverse) Nature 66-662 See date
- Nov Leonids in America "although failing to match the general expectations, nevertheless was a most shocking spectacle / Todd Astronomy p. 288
- Nov Leonids in the monthly edition of the Natal Mercury of Durban / no mention of meteors
- Nov Nothing of Leonids in Trans Roy Soc of Victoria
- Nov No mention meteors in (indecipherable) "Hall's Second Arctic Expedition" / See Appendix I / "Hall's Astronomical Observations"
- 13 Mets through clouds see Nov 13-14, 1871
- 13 bet 10:45 p.m. and daybreak on 14th / 9 meteors observed Cape of Good Hope / BA 68-356
- 13 see shower Aug 27
- 12 (B) After this date. In Rept BA 1868-344, says / 4 large meteors, star / showers and aerolites have during the past year to attract the attention of observers, especially on the 1st, 28th, 31st of January, and on the 29th of February last" (1868)
- 13 What clouds have to do with visibility of meteors if many close to earth? (reverse) See Nov 27, 1885 a salmon note (Refers to color of the paper. TT). See other notes 1885 and 1872
- Nov Leonids somewhat abundant 1903
- 12 predictions wrong. See Nov 15 / 17, 1905
- 13 If Leonids in 1898 active, so were Geminids



- Nov Leonids Nov 12-13, 1874  
 Nov Vesuvius & mets — same in 1868  
 Nov Leonids numerous Nov 17, 1893  
 13 A *protected* prediction Nov 13-16, 1908  
 13 If Leonids (some) Nov 13, 1898, also  
 Geminids active  
 12 Eruption of Vesuvius / La Sci Pour Tous  
 13-13  
 12 See that Geminids active after Leonids  
 1833 (Dec 12)  
 12 See prediction of Quadrantids / Nature  
 65-199  
 12 Sometimes when no meteors, there are  
 magnetic disturbances See 1905  
 13 Leonids / See Nov 15, 1886  
 12 or 13 to Jan 15, 1868 / First greatest series of  
 eruptions of Vesuvius / Y.B. 1869-230  
 12 Leonids great 1874  
 14 See 1866 great mets  
 13 See prediction Nov 13, 1869  
 12 33 1/4 year period / See mets great as 1833  
 on Nov 12-13, 1832 See Nov 12, 1831  
 12 See prediction Nov 13, 1869  
 12 See mets of 1872 active before Nov 27  
 13 If period of Leonids so determined how  
 about others / See Syrids (?TT) Ap 20  
 13 New crater in Vesuvius / CR 65-871  
 13 Vesuvius begins / Revue C. Sci 5/120  
 13-14 night / from 9:30 p.m. 13th / In Trini-  
 dad, light like a candelabrum in S. sky /  
 CR 66-313 / But see Aug 13  
 12 or 19th See 23rd  
 13-14 E. J. Lowe obs. as stated N. Lands / Veri-  
 fied in Mo. Notices 28/32  
 14 Early in the morning, Calmar Sweden /  
 thousands of meteors BA 68-393 / This  
 continuation of the near Bremen account  
 14 (A) 8 a.m. Near Bremen, Germany, in a  
 thick fog / meteors looked like small  
 swarms of gnats. Seemed to start from  
 a point in the South BA '68-392 / Ob-  
 server unnamed said been "a friend of Dr.  
 Behrmann" said he saw some crossing the  
 rising sun.  
 14 New volc in Nicaragua, ab 8 leagues from  
 city of Leon / LT Jan 14, 1868 p. 10 (re-  
 verse) on a phenom of 27th a vaster erup-  
 tion  
 14 Nicaragua / All around the jungle of  
 skeleton trees stripped of foliage by cinders  
 14-etc / New volc near Leon, Nicaragua /  
 A.J.Sci 2/45/131 espec. 27th  
 13-14 Great star shower U.S.  
 14 Iowa City, Iowa / Met trains / each sev-  
 eral minutes / 2:51 a.m. 2:56 / 3:03 /  
 3:08 / MWR 07-391  
 14 Morning / Star showers US and West  
 Indies / BA 68-356  
 14 Editor of the Guardian and Govt. Gazette  
 (Kingston St Vincent) in issue of the 16th  
 says saw from 4:30 until daylight at 5:30  
 shower of mets "which flew about in  
 every direction and in every magnitude  
 14 (Morning) Meteors / None reported from  
 Paris Observatory / Symons 2-130  
 14 NY Times p. 1 and issue of the 15th, p 5  
 15 Meteoric dust in Oran, Algeria (I give up,  
 but it looks like "Vierlehrsich". TT)  
 Natur. Ges. Zu. 13/313. Bull Soc Vaud  
 Lausane / 1868-69 (Try the French book  
 with the Algerian page numbers and let  
 me know how you make out! TT)  
 Nov No mention of Leonids in Cape Argus  
 13 etc / No meteors mentioned in the Sydney  
 Morning Herald  
 12-13 Told in Melbourne Argus of 13th that  
 great meteor shower expected between  
 12th and 14th / no more mention  
 15 From 4 to 8 a.m. great display mets  
 Shanghai / BA 69-301 Also an account of  
 enormous numbers seen ab 50 miles NNW  
 of Pekin  
 15 night / the great eruption of Vesuvius /  
 YB 69-233
- ### BOX A (Resumed)
- 16 Spon Comb. Dowlais, Merth. (Wales TT)  
 5 a.m. workmen passing a house smelled  
 smoke — broke in / Mary Howells aged  
 70 roasted to death in her bed — supposed  
 candle had ignited the bed. Some time be-  
 fore her son had been suffocated at the  
 Dowlais works / Morning Post of the  
 20th, p. 7  
 16 Spon Comb. (London) Times of — "The  
 Downpatrick Recorder reports a case of  
 alleged spontaneous combustion of the hu-  
 man body as having occurred in the town.  
 A woman named Mary McMullen and her  
 son living in a house in Byron Lane, was  
 missed, and the door of this house was  
 forced open. Hugh McMullen, the son,  
 was found lying with his head next to the  
 fireplace, quite insensible. In an inner  
 room was found lying under the window  
 few fragments of what had been his  
 mother. A bed and bedstead in the room  
 had been burned, and she had died by  
 fire. Some furniture in the apartment was  
 still smouldering. The only portion of her  
 body found were the breast, hands, both  
 feet, and the lower parts of the leg bones.  
 The upper parts of the legs, the thighs,  
 and all parts of the body not specified as  
 having been found, were completely cal-  
 cined. Hugh McMullen died in the In-  
 firmmary the same night. At the inquest,  
 Dr. Newport White, M.D., said he was  
 shockingly inclined to the opinion that the  
 woman's death was caused by spontaneous  
 combustion. In the case of Hugh Mc-  
 Mullen the jury returned a verdict of  
 "Death from effusion on the brain by  
 blood poisoning from smoke," and in the  
 case of Mary McMullen — "Burnt to  
 death."  
 18 LT p. 9 / Ext freak
- ### BOX 3 (Resumed)
- 18 The dry fog at St Thomas came with the  
 quake and lasted several days / Nouvelles  
 Meteorologiques 1/170  
 18 Ship Capt reported having seen on or  
 about the 19th large flames of fire on  
 Guadeloupe / Colonial Standard / Kings-  
 ton, Jamaica, Dec 2

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